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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/604,965	06/28/2000	Mark Kirkpatrick	BS00-055	6374

28970 7590 11/24/2003

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MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

OPSASNICK, MICHAEL N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

10

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/604,965

Applicant(s)

KIRKPATRICK, MARK

Examiner

Michael N. Opsasnick

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein (5479411) in view of Sit et al (6349336).

As per claims 1,7,8,13,14,22,26,28,32,34,39,42, Klein (5479411) teaches an email notification system comprising:

“an email server.....stored” as email network (col. 4 lines 20-25)

“an email notification.....email message” as retrieving email in a convention email system (col. 4 lines 20-25)

“a header extraction process.....email” as extracting header email info (col. 2 lines 40-50)

“a text to speech converter....information.....voicemail message” as converting the header email and delivered a voice mail message (col. 2 lines 20-40);

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“wherein the voicemail server includes a process to notify the subscriber of the voicemail message” as teaching notifying the subscriber of the voicemail message containing the converted header information (col. 6 lines 1-22)

Klein (5479411) does not explicitly teach the details of the polling process, however, Sit et al (6349336) teaches the communication protocols involving email servers, especially with automatic polling (col. 4 lines 45-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of email communications to automatically periodically poll an email server because it would advantageously allow for updating and monitoring the performance of the server (Sit et al (6349336) col. 4 lines 55-60).

As per claims 2,9,13,14,26,35, 40,41, Klein (5479411) teaches notifying the subscriber of the voicemail message containing the converted header information (col. 6 lines 1-22)

As per claims 3,5,6,11,12,15,17,25,31,36,38,43,44, Klein (5479411) teaches control protocols (col. 3 lines 46-67)

As per claims 4,10,16,23,24,29,30,37,45, Klein (5479411) teaches multiple email accounts and servers (col. 4 lines 20-31)

As per claims 18-20, Klein (5479411) teaches contact information (col. 4 lines 2-19; and col. 5 lines 1-24)

As per claims 21,27,33,46, Klein (5479411) teaches email information can include other types of media (col. 6 lines 27-50)

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 9/3/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As per applicant's arguments that the 'Examiner admitted that Klein does not explicitly does not explicitly teach the polling process', examiner disagrees and points that the Office Action says "Klein does not explicitly teach the details of the polling process". As per applicant's arguments that the purpose of polling the email server in Sit is not to check if there are new email message, examiner argues that the applicant is arguing the specification, and not the scope of the claim language. Examiner notes that the scope of the claim language pertains to 'polling to obtain a message'. As per the arguments that it would not have been obvious to combine the Sit and Klein references, examiner argues that the reason to combine the Sit reference with Klein is to provide a way to better monitor the server (Sit et al (6349336) col. 4 lines 55-60). As per applicant's arguments that the notification system of Klein is not an active operation, examiner argues that the applicant is arguing the specification, and not the scope of the claim language.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

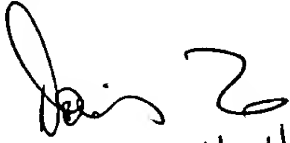
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
or faxed to:
(703) 872 9314,
(for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (703)305-4089, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Doris To, can be reached at (703)305-4827. The facsimile phone number for this group is (703)872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

mno
11/23/03


DORIS H. TO 11/24/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600